

\$4 Million Recreation Bond Program Outlined

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Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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SPECIAL CENSUS TALLY BIG FLOP

City Misses 100,000 Bid

Hopes that the city would officially cross the threshold into the realm of cities with 100,000 or more population popped louder than a pin-pricked balloon here Tuesday night when City Manager George Stevens announced that the city fell short of the 100,000 class by quite a margin.

The preliminary count given to Stevens Tuesday by Special Census Supervisor Vernon L. Miller showed the city had hit only 96,955, a small increase over the November, 1957 total of 93,372.

"It's very disappointing," Stevens commented.

He gave several reasons for the low count—reasons which were indicated by canvassers on the special census crews:

1. Many of the city's apartments are vacant.
2. Many houses in the city are for sale.

HOWEVER, the city manager indicated that the costs and work of conducting the special census was not wasted.

"The increase in population will mean about \$30,000 in additional revenue to the city next year," he said.

Failure of the city to hit the prized circle of 100,000 class cities set some observers to reflecting the red faces that might be showing here and there.

THE CITY won the Tournament of Roses class for cities of 100,000, it was considering membership in various organizations based on a population of 100,000—and it's always nice to be able to say you represent a city of 100,000.

Steps to put the city into the (Continued on Page 34)

Burglary Ring Hit, 5 Nabbed

Arrests of a Hawthorne man and four 16-year-old North Torrance youths, which began Friday night, are expected to clear up 20 North Torrance residential burglaries of loot estimated at \$1000 which have baffled police in recent months.

Charged by Torrance detectives with receiving stolen goods is Edward C. Lillich, 28, of 728 York Ave., who was picked up shortly after the arrest of three juveniles by Detectives Ralph Walker and Lonnie Brown. Sgt. Donald Hamilton, Torrance detective head, accused the unemployed truck driver of buying stolen goods from the juveniles for the past two months.

The youths were arrested near 186th St. and Faysmith Ave. after a search of their pockets disclosed they were carrying costume jewelry on their persons.

Forgery Suspects Ordered to Trial

Three men accused of heating local merchants out of \$3000 in worthless checks were bound over Monday for Hollywood Superior Court arraignment May 8.

Held by South Bay Municipal Judge Otto B. Willett to answer forgery charges in Superior Court are Delmer L. Stuart, 21, of 4706 Carson St.; Homer T. Prappas, 35, of Hollywood; and Emmett Wagoner, 25, of 100 S. Benita Ave., Redondo Beach.

Arrested earlier this month at motels in Hollywood by Torrance Detective Sgts. Mickey Fischer and Donald Hamilton, the trio has admitted issuing bogus checks to markets and liquor stores throughout Greater Torrance.

Charged with 10 counts of check forgery, Prappas is being held on \$2000 bail. Wagoner and Stuart, who are each charged with five counts of issuing worthless checks, are being held under bond of \$1000 each.

Clocks to Be Set Ahead an Hour Sunday

Clocks in Torrance homes and offices will lose an hour early Sunday morning when local residents set the hands ahead from 1 to 2 a.m. as daylight saving time officially goes into effect.

For those who want to check up on the accuracy of their clocks and watches, Audichron, the Pacific Telephone Co.'s time-of-day machine, will provide the answer at ULrich 3-1212.

May Ask For Bond Election

A general fund and bond issue program which would provide improvements to city park areas worth more than \$4 million was scheduled to be placed in the hands of the city's recreation commission last night by Recreation Director Harry Van Bellehem.

Calling for a bond program totaling \$4,016,000 and a general fund expenditure of \$191,625, the project outlined by Van Bellehem includes a site acquisition program totaling \$2,722,500. The balance would be for improvements on existing parks and playgrounds.

GENERAL fund improvements would be made at the adult center, El Nido Park, El Retiro, McMaster, Torrance Park, Walteria, Sea-Aire and at the plunge. Other areas to be improved would include the civic center (\$361,000), Entradero sump golf course, Guenser, La Romeria, Los Arboles, Paradise, and Pueblo parks.

Land to be acquired would total about 120 acres according to Van Bellehem's figures.

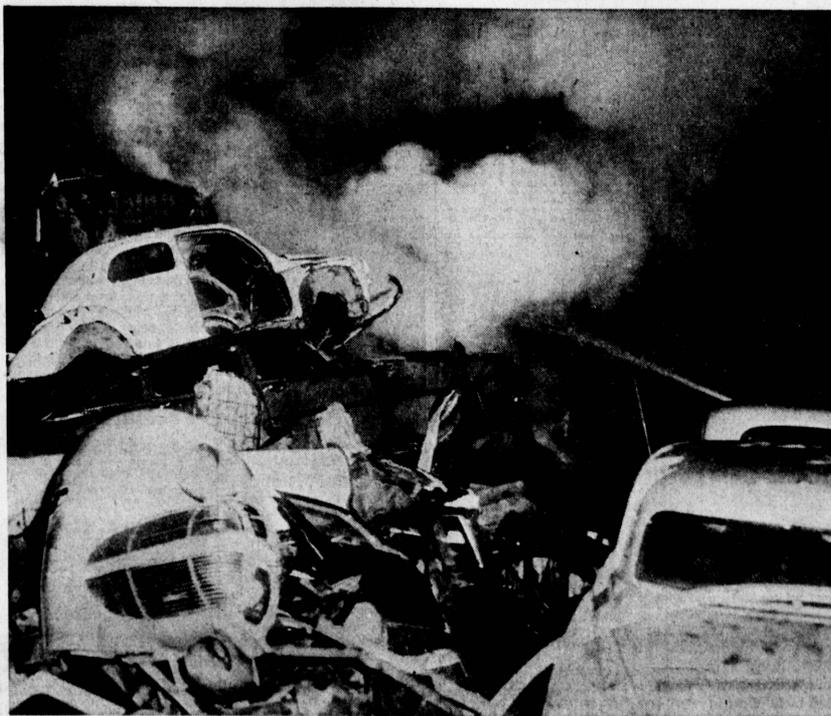
The commission was expected to take the extensive program under study.

Alondra Park Sets Baseball Workshop

A series of four youth leaders baseball workshops began last night at Alondra Park under the auspices of the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation.

The remaining three workshops are open to all youth leaders including Little League, Pony, Colt and Babe Ruth League coaches and officials. Subjects to be covered by leader Les Mann include: game strategy, baseball skills and techniques, guidance, health and nutrition.

Location of workshops is Alondra Park Community Building, 3535 W. Redondo Beach Blvd., between Prairie and Crenshaw.



AUTOS IN FLAMES . . . It took Torrance firemen nearly four hours to quell stubborn flames in a huge pile of scrapped cars and tires at an auto wrecking yard, 5107 Torrance Blvd., early yesterday. Here firemen play water

(from the right) onto blazing stack of auto bodies. Fire crews from the central station under the direction of Bn. Chief Billy Stonecker answered the alarm. (Herald photo)

\$1 Million Hike in School Costs Predicted to Board

Preliminary figures indicate that the 1959-60 school expenditures should run about \$9,670,000, according to information received by the Torrance Board of Education Tuesday.

This is about \$1 million higher than the 1958-59 budget, Superintendent J. H. Hull said. About \$600,000 of the increase will be due to growth—new students, new teachers and employees, and new schools. About \$400,000 of the increase will be due to increased costs—rising costs, employee increments, and similar items.

THE DISTRICT expects an

increase of about 2000 students next year, bringing total enrollment to more than 25,850.

Of the expected budget, nearly \$6,000,000 would go for teachers salaries, with another \$390,000 for salaries of other employees. Administration costs would be about \$380,000.

Other major categories would include plant operations, \$1,064,000; instructional expenses, \$455,000; fixed costs, \$422,000; auxiliary services, \$241,000; plant maintenance, \$360,000; capital outlays, \$235,000; transportation, \$186,000; community services, \$8000; and transfers, \$10,000.

Estimated costs per pupil would be \$374 next year, up from this year's \$382 costs.

ONE SUGGESTION for reducing costs was taken under study by the board at its Tuesday meeting. The suggestion would reflect a saving of more than \$100,000, officials told members of the board.

A proposal was made to assign two classes to each kindergarten teacher in Torrance schools. Each kindergarten teacher now has only one class. Under the proposal, each teacher would have a morning and an afternoon class.

Assigning kindergarten teachers two classes would save more than \$105,000 of next year's budget, the board was told. If the size of kindergarten classes were reduced somewhat and if certain other adjustments could be made, quality of the instructional program would not suffer, officials reported.

An increasing amount of parent conferences and educational programs has been shifted to higher grades and will ease a previously heavy load on kindergarten teachers, Hull said. Giving kindergarten teachers two classes is common practice now in most surrounding districts, he noted.

WITH CONTINUING expansion of the district and a normal number of vacancies this year, there will be places for all present kindergarten teachers, he reported. Although the number of kindergarten teachers would be reduced from 79 to 49, vacancies and new positions in kindergarten and primary classes should eliminate potential problems, Hull said.



AUTO SMASHED . . . Roland Paul Gallant, 23, of 134 E. 221st St., was taken to Harbor General Hospital after his auto smashed into a pole on 190th St. west of Arlington Ave. The pole was snapped off high above the ground and knocked out power in the area until Edison Co. crews could make repairs. (Herald photo)

A Penny for your Thoughts

"What is your opinion on the proposal to use radar as an aid in the enforcement of traffic speed laws of the city?"

That was the question the HERALD's inquiring photographer asked several persons in Torrance this week. Their answers and pictures appear below:

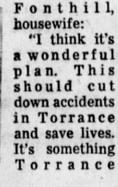
Mrs. Hazel Kulp, 918 Amapola, housewife:

"I think it's a very good idea. We drive entirely too fast in Torrance. This will help to slow us down."



Mrs. Kathleen Johnston, 1116 Fonthill, housewife:

"I think it's a wonderful plan. This should cut down accidents in Torrance and save lives. It's something Torrance needs."



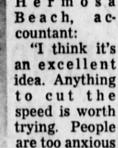
Mrs. Shirley Rauch, 3118 Torrance Blvd., director of reducing salon:

"If it has been proven effective in other areas, I'm sure it will have a worthwhile effect locally, and we are wise to make use of it."



Bob Lee, 731 1/2 30th St., Hermosa Beach, accountant:

"I think it's an excellent idea. Anything to cut the speed is worth trying. People are too anxious to get nowhere in a hurry."



Frank Shrom, 5301 Calle de Ricardo, engineer:

"I think it's a wonderful thing. It will keep the young people from speeding, and maybe less people will get killed on Hawthorne Blvd."



Schools Get \$2600 For Counselling

Torrance Schools will get \$2600 in federal funds for use in the counseling and guidance programs at the three local high schools, the Board of Education was informed this week.

The money represented about half of what the district had sought under terms of a bill which provides additional money to districts which want to improve their counseling programs.

The money will be used to provide aptitude tests to 10th and 11th graders at local high schools and to hire an expert to evaluate the local guidance programs.